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First Ever Financial Empowerment Training for Long Island's Vulnerable Populations Addresses Violence and Self-Sufficiency

Allstate Readiness Series to Offer Critical Financial Independence Skills Amid Pressures of an Unstable Economy

October 24, 2008

For the first time, national experts will train Long Island domestic violence and social services organizations to bring long term financial strategies to Long Island's most vulnerable populations. A special training event to be held October 29th will introduce the Allstate Foundation's Working Ahead Through Money Management curriculum to key advocates and counselors in an island-wide effort to help domestic violence victims and other individuals to gain financial independence and economic self-sufficiency during America's most trying financial times. The event is presented as part of the year-long Allstate Readiness Series program created by Middle Country Library.

Experts report that economic control is a tactic commonly used by abusers to prevent their victims from leaving abusive situations. Abusers often block access to money and/or other financial resources including credit cards, bank accounts or the ability to work outside the home. The Allstate Readiness Series by Middle Country Library will give victims some targeted tools and strategies to help them deal with their financial struggles and plan for safe, secure futures.

"In this unstable economy, domestic violence victims and other individuals are particularly at risk for violence and abuse," said Allstate Foundation Chairperson Inez Birbiglia. "Sometimes an abuser controls a person's paycheck, employment, financial accounts or purchases. Sometimes they destroy a credit rating by using a victim's credit cards or putting bills in their name and never paying them. Abusers can force their victims to turn over government benefits and financial assets, refuse to pay child support, or harass someone at work until they lose their job. All of these financial factors can be amplified during our stressed and strained economy."

The unique and comprehensive training event will be implemented by the national Network to End Domestic Violence on October 29 from 1-5 p.m. at the Middle Country Public Library, 101 Eastwood Boulevard, Centereach. Participants will be provided with an overview of the dynamics of domestic violence and the tactics abusers use to achieve financial control. Top social services organizations will participate to bring these critical financial strategies back to victims and their client populations. Long Island's at risk individuals will learn how to use a calculator, plan a budget, monitor a credit report, prevent identity theft, fund an Individual Development Account (a type of savings account that receives matching funds from various sources), and overcome financial fears and dozens of other long term solutions to reaching economic independence.

Allstate Foundation is the first organization to focus national resources on the niche issue of economic control, the program provides tools and strategies for domestic violence victims to escape abuse and become economically self-sufficient. In addition to funding things such as education and job training, a key aspect of the program is its financial empowerment curriculum.

"We are very pleased to have the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the Allstate Foundation as part of this important event," said Sandra Feinberg, director of Middle Country Public Library. "NNEDV's extensive experience in developing and in training the Allstate financial curriculum will be incredibly beneficial for Long Island's social service community."

The training event is part of the Allstate Readiness Series and is presented in cooperation with Long Island's five domestic violence agencies: Brighter Tomorrows, Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The Retreat, Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and VIBS Family Violence & Rape Crisis Center.

Registration is free to domestic violence and social service agency staff, and is on a first-come, first serve basis. For more information, call Kristen Todd at (631) 585-9393, extension 212, or email: toddkristen@mcpl.lib.ny.us. Registration forms and further information on financial empowerment can be downloaded at www.readinessbeginswithme.org.

TODAY'S EVENTS

- [Trick or Treating](#)
Briarcliff College
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- [Girls Varsity Volleyball: Patchogue-Medford v. Ward Melville](#)
Ward Melville High School
5:00 pm
- [Book Signing: "Ghosts of Long Island II: More Stories of the Paranormal"](#)
Ward Melville Heritage Organization's Educational & Cultural Center, Stony Brook
6:30 pm

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